

Molly Harish
14 Rockbrook Drive,
Camden, ME 04843

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Molly Harish, and I live in Camden, Maine. I urge you to vote OUGHT TO PASS for LD 613.

Several years ago, I volunteered dozens of hours to help pass the current Maine Death with Dignity Act. I was drawn to that work both as a private citizen concerned about the options available to myself and my loved ones, and as a Registered Nurse with years of experience caring for patients with cancer.

My experience as an oncology RN informs my understanding of the following simple truth: There is not always enough time, under the language in the current law, between when a person decides to pursue medical aid in dying and when their natural, sometimes gruesome, death occurs. As a result, it is an unavoidable tragedy and a failure of the spirit of the law, that some people who want to utilize the law will be denied the opportunity, and that they will be forced, instead, to suffer a painful and fear-filled dying experience.

We have the opportunity to fix this. I strongly support amending the current legislation, as proposed in LD 613, to allow prescribing physicians to waive the mandatory waiting period when, in their professional judgment, it is appropriate to do so.

Again, I urge you to vote OUGHT TO PASS for LD 613.

With gratitude for your time and your work,

Molly Harish, RN
Camden, ME